

UNCLASSIFIED

7:27 AM -- 5 July 1988

STAT

Note To: From:

Subject: Response on Softswitch and VS connectivity questions

In response to your questions last week on items in my previous weekly report, I submit the following brief notes. More is available if you wish.

STAT

What are the security problems with connecting from an Alliance workstation into VM? This type of connectivity is being tested today in an OIT testbed . The security problem stems from the fact that VM cannot tell exactly which workstation on a given Alliance is communicating. Security has OKed Alliance connectivity through a VS to VM as long as the Alliance stations are near enough to the VS to be "accounted for". I can't help but think that our stations will meet these criteria.

Will Softswitch give only overnight turnaround? Softswitch will run on an MVS machine and provide packet switching between AIM (on VM) and other machines connected to MVS such as DEC's and Wang VS's. The concern here is that users are going to be disappointed with less than instant delivery of mail. I believe the delivery time will be more a matter of minutes rather than hours. The trade off is how much \$\$ do I have to spend to provide a system that can provide delivery in seconds rather than minutes. The main concern is that someone would expect interactive response time through Softswitch. Softswitch, by definition, is a "batch, store and forward" system. Softswitch will begin "production" testing this month.

The bottom line to these two subjects are:

1. We will be able to access VM (AIM, Pyramid, etc.) from an Alliance workstation. However, this facility is so new, the impact on the machines (Alliance, VS, and VM) is not precisely known.
2. We can expect packets (memos, data, etc.) sent either from AIM to the VS or vice versa to arrive in a matter of minutes rather than hours. How happy the users will be depends upon their expectations. Those expecting "instant" response may well be disappointed.

If more information is required at this time, a briefing from those involved can be arranged.

STAT

.....

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

7:20 AM -- 5 July 1988

STAT

Note To:

From:

Subject: FYI - Exdir interest in VS connectivity and Softswitch

The Exdir has shown an active interest in VS connectivity to the mainframe. In particular, he wants to be able to use an Alliance workstation to read his AIM mail and to communicate with DCI components, either through Wang or VM. Just thought you might like to know in case he brings it up with you.

STAT

.....

STAT

CC:

UNCLASSIFIED